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Amarillo Tax Preparer Sentenced on Tax Fraud Conviction

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that James Kevin Foster, a/k/a Kevin Foster, was sentenced this morning in Amarillo, Texas, by the Honorable Mary Lou Robinson, United States District Judge, to 18 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$39,357 restitution to the United States Government. Foster pled guilty in August to one count of fraud and false statement on a tax return. Judge Robinson ordered that Foster surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on December 6, 2004.

Kevin Foster, a resident of Amarillo, was in the profession of preparing income tax returns and was identified as an Affiliated Tax Professional by Renaissance, The Tax People, Inc. (Renaissance). Renaissance, formerly known as Renaissance Designer Gallery Products, Inc. and Advantage International Marketing, was a corporation that was registered in Nevada with headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Renaissance was a multi-level marketing company that specialized in the sales and service of home-based business packages involving tax strategies and tax services. As part of the home-based business package, Renaissance offered tax support to its members in the form of tax preparation, tax advice, and "audit protection." Individual taxpayers learned about Foster's tax preparation services from Foster and other promoters at Renaissance seminars.

According to court documents, Foster admitted that from April 2000 to April 2002, he aided and assisted in, procured, counseled, and advised, the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of individual or joint income tax returns, Forms 1040, which he knew were false and fraudulent. Foster admitted that he knew that the tax returns reported false items including Schedule A deductions for charitable contributions and business expenses, including mileage, and Schedule C business losses, to which the tax payers were not entitled.

U.S. Attorney Roper acknowledged and praised the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vicki Lamberson of the Amarillo, Texas, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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